

CENTER MANAGER'S MEETING

November 16-17

Introduction

Kenan Jaycox, Center Manager/SWCC	Jeremy McKellar, Asst. Dispatcher/ABZ
Amos Coochyouma, Center Manager/FLZ	Chuck Holt, Center Manager/SEZ
Steve Webb, Center Manager/PHC	Tami Buchanan, Asst. Center Manager/AIFC
Nicole Finch, Asst. Center Manager/LNZ	Rita Booth, Dispatcher/WMZ
Kristi Sullivan, Acting Center Mgr./ PFC	Bill Jackson, DFMO/WMZ
Dee Gallegos, Dispatcher/SNZ	Norma Orozco, Center Manager/GCZ

Not Present

Gila-Las Cruces Zone

Taos Zone

Kenan went over the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) meeting. A few of the highlights from that meeting are as follows:

- The Chairman has been turned over from Pam McAlpin to Bob Lineback. Bob will serve the SWCG for the next two years.
- Type 1 Team IC tenures will change from 5 years to 3 years beginning 2008. Team Members will have to reapply every year. Team Members can no longer be on two team's rosters. They will also be extending the team nominee deadline to 12/6/06. When applying for a team, the nominee will be required to turn in their IQCS printout with their application.
- An Infrared Interpreter will be invited to the next SWCG meeting to discuss the possibilities of having a group of folks staging at an airport or wherever to interpret several large fires at a time vs. trying to get one Interpreter per fire, which hasn't been an easy task.
- If the SWCG stages a Team in the SW area, it will be first out. The direction on staging a team and how to use them will be clarified in the Mob Guide.
- 3-Tier Dispatch is a huge topic amongst the SWCG. There is a lot of talk and possibly movement or combining of certain Dispatch offices. This leads to the renaming of the centers. The "Zone" concept is still valid, but the Dispatch Centers will be renamed to follow suit with the rest of the nation.
- Hotshots have been voicing a concern on turning down assignments because the person "in charge", be it the Division Supervisor or even the IC may not have the experience they have and those folks are making unsafe decisions in the field. Hopefully these concerns are being taken seriously and these crews are using the SAFENET website to continue documenting unsafe practices in the field.

- Dave Behrens from the Arizona State Land Department is proposing putting together a Type II Long Team through their office. The IC for this Team will be Larry Humphrey. This Team will not be on the official rotation, but will be available when needed. Larry has a lot of very good, extremely qualified team members and they will be a great asset. The State will update the Group as soon as the Team is officially set up.
- Look for changes in the Planning Level chapter of the SW Mob Guide. It will reflect more of what the National Mob Guide has documented and will include more Fire Use language as well as predictive services input.
- There was a proposal from the AZ BLM on wanting to track more resources on the SIT300, i.e. Air Attack. SWCC will not track Air Attacks. They move around so much, the report wouldn't be accurate. The SIT300 will remain as is.

The next SWCG meeting will be held 1/24 – 1/25, in Phoenix, Arizona

Discussion for the Center Manager Meeting started off with creating the proposed name changes of the Dispatch Centers. The proposed changes are as follows:

NM-LNZ to NM-ADC	NM-ABZ to NM-AQC	NM-GLZ to NM-SDC
NM-TAZ to NM-TDC	NM-SNZ to NM-SFC	
AZ-AIFC to AZ-ADC	AZ-PFC to AZ-PDC	AZ-FLZ to AZ-FDC
AZ-GCZ to AZ-WDC	AZ-PHC – changed	AZ-SEZ to AZ-TDC
AZ-WMZ to AZ-SDC		

Everyone will need to report back to Kenan with the approval of their changes by 12/1/06

Reminder to the group to send in their office changes for the SW Mob Guide to Bianca @ SWCC. These changes need to be submitted by January 10, 2007. Also, the Mob Guide **orders** should be submitted by February 1st.

With all the changes recently, there hasn't been anyone in charge of the data clean-up projects for ROSS. Ken would like to get someone involved in doing this clean-up and becoming more involved in various ROSS data projects. Nicole??

Nicole announced some Dispatch classes she will be setting up and will need some teachers and coaches. Initial Attack Dispatch (D-311) will be held in ABQ at the FUTA from 3/19-3/23, Aircraft Dispatch (D-312) will be in Las Cruces from 3/26-3/30 and Support Dispatch (D-310) will also be held at the FUTA from 4/16-4/20. If you are someone you know can fulfill those roles, call Nicole asap.

Jeremy announced the MAFF's training in ABQ. The class will be held the first week of May and they are looking for 4 Aircraft Dispatcher trainees to help out.

Remember, AD's will need to be paid with hard dollars when they are asked to teach a class.

Ken collected all the MOU's and/or agreements from the group. He would like to put them into the SW Mob Guide.

Lengthy discussion was held on the Data Delivery System. Ken feels we all need to learn the ACCESS & EXCEL programs. A lot of ideas were given by the group on where to get the training and/or who would be able to teach the classes. If anything comes to mind, send your ideas to Ken and he will get back with more information at the next CM Meeting.

When ordering a TFR, there is no need to fill out the TFR form. The request should go directly to the Aircraft desk with the Lat/Long, frequencies, contacts and elevation, if known.

Ken stressed the importance of having more nominations for the Al Bell award. Think about who you would like to nominate and remember, you can always submit your nominee at anytime throughout the year.

Jon Skeels will be at the Dispatch Workshop to discuss using supplies in ROSS. It will be mandatory to begin using Supplies in ROSS starting **January 1, 2007**.

Steve asked the group what Managers were 401 classified? The Tonto NF would like to convert their CM to the 401 series. Nicole announced the Lincoln Zone positions of CM and Assistant will be 401 qualified and will remain as 401 positions. No other offices are heading in that direction at this time.

Steve requested a copy of all approved dispatch organization charts to see the configuration of the other offices. Please fax them to 602-225-5249 or e-mail them directly to Steve. He would like to collect them all in the next couple of weeks, if possible.

Discussion was held on WILDCAD. Only a couple of offices are using it. The Prescott and Kaibab have put in requests, but there will be no training through the WILDCAD folks until March. This will be too late to begin using it for this coming fire season. Tami may be able to offer training through her office. She will let Ken know as soon as possible. Steve said the program does not recognize ½ townships, nor is he impressed with the service, when there is a problem, but he still highly recommends it.

Conversation was held on setting up a "mega expanded dispatch". The expanded would cover AIFC, PFC, and PHC. Possibly have it located at the BLM Training Center in PHX. Lots of ideas were tossed around and everyone will keep working on plans to create an efficient way of running several large fires out of one centrally located office. The Dispatch Center Managers within the CWZ will ask for approval from the CWCG and SWCG... may be able to create one this fire season to see if it is worth doing every year.

The Dispatch Message System was discussed. Not too many Centers utilize it, due to all the spam coming into it. Flagstaff uses DMS pretty extensively. It really isn't that great of a tool

and it was asked of the group to start thinking of ways for an alternative method of instant messaging. The SW will continue to use it though and will still require the use of committed messages.

The horribly bad service from Human Capital Management was discussed. Everyone seems to be aware of it, but nothing is being done. Any outlet to pass this information to the appropriate parties is encouraged.

3-Tier Dispatch moves were discussed. There is so much to be done when merging or moving offices. Lots of brainstorming was done. Keeping communication open is the key on how other moves are going, how things should or shouldn't be done to speed up the process, contact names and numbers for support in any area and any other type of information will be extremely helpful! Ken to check on getting templates to give to the group.

Ken past out a memo dated 11/22/05, regarding the Establishment of Zone Level Fuels Collaborative Groups. Ken would like us all to get with our reps to see if this memo is being followed and groups are being set up to adhere to this memo.

The new Flight Following request form was reviewed and will be available in a word document form.

SWCC will be putting together an updated frequencies guide. It should be ready to be distributed by this coming fire season.

Steve brought up wanting the Tonto to be assigned with an Air to Ground frequency this year. Ken will meet with John Moulder to see if he can make this happen.

There will be new "stronger" language in the SW Mob Guide on how to utilize AFF. If any office has the capability of using AFF, there will not be any need for 15 minute check-ins over the radio. Of course, if there is any emergency traffic of any kind, it should be relayed to the pilot over the radio.

Ken announced the Expanded Dispatch kits available to order this coming fire season, if needed. Platypus or any other computer rental service will still be available, but the intent is to utilize these kits first before doing so. There will either be 4 sets of 5 computers OR 2 sets of 10 computers. More information will be coming out soon on how to order them in ROSS.

The next Center Manager meeting will be held 2/21 – 2/22, 2007 in Alamogordo, NM